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Late Arrivals

- 601 Developing Countries Must Focus on Youth, Says World Bank**
(2007 report highlights "demographic dividend" as key to success) (560)
602 Bush Says CIA Interrogation Program Has Saved Lives Worldwide
(In his weekly radio address, president calls upon Congress to approve legislation) (890)

Word Count Total: 1450
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Developing Countries Must Focus on Youth, Says World Bank
(2007 report highlights "demographic dividend" as key to success) (560)

By Carrie Loewenthal
Washington File Special Correspondent

Washington -- In order to reduce poverty, the developing world should make its top priorities: education, healthcare and job training for the next generation, according to the 2007 World Development Report released September 16 by the World Bank.

The report, launched before the annual meeting of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Singapore, urges developing countries to take advantage of the fact that the 1.3 billion youth currently living in the developing world—the largest number of young people ever—are already better educated and healthier than previous generations. Developing countries must seize this opportunity, the report says, to train this young population to join the workforce and become active in civic society.

"Most developing countries have a short window of opportunity to get this right before their record numbers of youth become middle-aged, and they lose their demographic dividend," said Emmanuel Jimenez, a co-author of the report and Director of Human Development in the World Bank's East Asia and the Pacific Department.

Jimenez called the effort to educate and keep youth healthy "one of the profound decisions a developing country will ever make to banish poverty and galvanize its economy."

The report encourages developing countries to implement policies designed to help youth to successfully overcome five fundamental challenges they face in life: getting an education, finding work, staying healthy, forming families, and exercising their citizenship. According to the World Bank report those policies should center on three broad areas:

- **Opportunities:** Developing countries should provide opportunities for and access to education, job training and healthcare. Countries should ensure youth have avenues open to them for political and civic involvement.
- **Capabilities:** Governments should provide youth with enough information to make them capable of making their own life decisions. Information on disease can help young people stay healthy, while incentives to learn can keep them interested in furthering their education. The report notes that India has already implemented such a successful program, called Better Life Options.

- **Second Chances:** Countries need to enable those young people who have fallen behind due to difficult circumstances or their own poor choices to return to school or enter a rehabilitation program. Especially in need, the report says, are the 300,000 young people under the age of 18 who have recently been involved in armed conflict, and the other 500,000 who have been recruited into military or paramilitary forces. The report notes that demobilization and rehabilitation programs can help these young people reconstruct their lives with job training, as well as medical and psychological support.

If developing countries do not focus their attention on educating, involving and taking care of their young people, they will risk creating a disillusioned society, the report says. It notes that such disillusionment can lead to prolonged political and social strife.

"Young people often felt that they were treated as risky agents, whereas they would like to be seen as agents of change – agents who can bring enormous energy and enthusiasm to the business of nation building," said Mamta Murthi, another co-author of the report and a lead economist in the World Bank's Europe and Central Asia Department.

The full text (<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/EXTDEC/EXTRESEARCH/EXTWDRS/EXTWDR2007/0,,menuPK:1489865~pagePK:64167702~piPK:64167676~theSitePK:1489834,00.html>) of the report is available on the World Bank's Web site.

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Bush Says CIA Interrogation Program Has Saved Lives Worldwide

(In his weekly radio address, president calls upon Congress to approve legislation) (890)

Washington -- President Bush said he is working with the U.S. Congress to pass "two vital pieces of legislation" essential to winning the War on Terror that would provide legislative backing to surveillance and CIA interrogation programs.

Speaking in his weekly radio address to the American people September 16, Bush said one bill would authorize military commissions to try suspected terrorists for war crimes, as well as provide "clear rules" for U.S. security personnel involved in their detention and in questioning captured terrorists.

The president said the legislation must allow the CIA's interrogation program to continue.

"The information the Central Intelligence Agency has obtained by questioning men like Khalid Sheikh Mohammed has helped disrupt terrorist plots, including planned strikes inside the United States and on a U.S. Marine base in East Africa, an American consulate in Pakistan, and Britain's Heathrow Airport," Bush said. "This CIA program has saved American lives, and the lives of people in other countries."

The other bill would modernize U.S. electronic surveillance laws and "provide additional authority for the terrorist surveillance program" designed to quickly monitor communications between Americans and suspected terrorists overseas.

"The principle behind this program is clear: When al-Qaida operatives are calling into or out of our country, we need to know who they are calling, why they are calling, and what they are planning," he said.

An audio link (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2006/09/20060916.a.ram>) to the president's remarks is available on the White House Web site.

Following is the transcript:

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
Saturday, September 16, 2006

RADIO ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT TO THE NATION

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning. On Monday, I visited New York, Pennsylvania, and the Pentagon to attend memorials marking the fifth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. It was an emotional day for me and for our country. On that day, we remembered those who lost their lives, and we paid tribute to those who gave their lives so that others might live. We rededicated ourselves to protecting the American people from another attack.

Next week, I will return to New York, where I will address the United Nations General Assembly. I look forward to talking to the world leaders gathered there about our obligation to defend civilization, and how we must work together to support the forces of freedom and moderation throughout the Middle East.

As we work with the international community to defeat the terrorists and extremists, we must also provide our military and intelligence professionals the tools they need to keep our country safe. Congress is considering two vital pieces of legislation to help us do just that. My Administration is working closely with members of both parties to pass these bills.

The first bill would allow us to use military commissions to try suspected terrorists for war crimes. We need this legislation because the Supreme Court has ruled that military commissions must be explicitly authorized by Congress.

I recently announced that 14 suspected terrorists, including Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the man believed to be the mastermind of the 9/11 attacks, had been transferred to Guantanamo Bay. As soon as Congress acts to authorize the military commissions I have proposed, the men our intelligence agencies believe helped orchestrate the deaths of nearly 3,000 Americans on September the 11th, 2001, can face justice.

This bill will also provide clear rules for our personnel involved in detaining and questioning captured terrorists. The information the Central Intelligence Agency has obtained by questioning men like Khalid Sheikh Mohammed has helped disrupt terrorist plots, including planned strikes inside the United States and on a U.S. Marine base in East Africa, an American consulate in Pakistan, and Britain's Heathrow Airport. This CIA program has saved American lives, and the lives of people in other countries.

Unfortunately, the recent Supreme Court decision put the future of this program in question, and we need this legislation to save it. There is debate about the specific proposals in this bill, and my Administration will work with Congress to find common ground. I have one test for this legislation: The intelligence community must be able to tell me that the bill Congress sends to my desk will allow this vital program to continue.

The second bill before Congress would modernize our electronic surveillance laws and provide additional authority for the terrorist surveillance program. I authorized the National Security Agency to operate this vital program in response to the 9/11 attacks. It allows us to quickly monitor terrorist communications between someone overseas and someone in America. It has helped detect and prevent terrorist attacks on our own country. The principle behind this program is clear: When al Qaeda operatives are calling into or out of our country, we need to know who they are calling, why they are calling, and what they are planning.

Both these bills are essential to winning the war on terror. So we will work with legislators from both sides of the aisle to get them passed. By passing these critical bills, we will bring terrorists to justice, continue

collecting vital intelligence from captured terrorists in a lawful way, and monitor terrorist communications, so we can stop new attacks on our nation.

Thank you for listening.

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